GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2292
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2006
BOMB EXPLOSION IN PASSENGER TRAIN
Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Yadav Shri Kailash Nath Singh

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an incident of bomb explosion took place in the Haldibari − New Jalpaiguri passenger train;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith loss of lives and properties therein;

(c) the compensation / ex-gratia relief provided to the families of those killed/injured;

(d) whether any inquiry has been ordered to find the cause of the incident;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof and follow-up action taken by the Railways thereon; and

(f) the stringent measures taken by the Railways to curb such incidents ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. On 20.11.2006 at about 18.19 hrs, when train no. 618 Dn. Passenger from Haldibari to New Jalpaiguri reached Belakoba Railway station, a powerful explosion took place in a general coach no. GS-8321. 08 passengers died, 18 passengers sustained grievous injuries and 28 sustained simple injuries due to the explosion. The loss of Railway property has been assessed at Rs. 9.40 lakhs (Approximately).

(c): Considering the gravity of the above incident, an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 15,000/- to the next of kin of the deceased, Rs. 5,000/- to the persons who sustained grievous injury and Rs. 500/- to the persons sustained simple injury has been made.

(d) & (e): Government Railway Police, New Jalpaiguri has registered a case vide Crime No. 31/06 dated 20.11.2006 under section 302, 323, 324, 326, 307,120, 120(b) Indian Penal Code (IPC) Read With (R/W) Indian Explosive Substance Act and 151 and 152 of the Railways Act. Chief Railway Safety Commissioner has also started enquiry into this incident. The report is awaited.

(f): Stringent checking of coaches at originating stations as well as enroute has been intensified jointly by Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police Staff. Security arrangements at Railway Stations have been reviewed along with Government Railway Police Officials. Joint patrolling of the stations is being undertaken round the clock by Government Railway Police and Railway Protection Force staff. Sniffer Dogs have been pressed into service for anti-sabotage checking. State Governments have been requested to further strengthen the security measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents.